

May 20, 2005

Dear Friend,

Yesterday the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issued its FINAL Request for Proposal (RFP) to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Proposals must be submitted by July 19, 2005. The Department of Energy (DOE) is expected to award the new management contract by December 1, 2005, with the new team taking control by June 1, 2006.

LANL is unique in the world, and the vast majority of the work and the conduct at the lab during the 62 years that it has been managed by the University of California have been exemplary. Thanks entirely to the scientists and staff that have devoted their careers to LANL, the Lab has contributed significantly to America's national security and technological and scientific superiority.

Since DOE decided over two years ago to put the management of the lab up for competition, there has been a lot of concern and uncertainty especially among current employees and the Los Alamos community about the future of the lab. I see today's release of the final RFP as an important first step toward concluding this difficult period and allowing everyone involved with the Lab to get back to the job at hand – conducting world-class science.

I am still in the process of closely scrutinizing the RFP. From the beginning, my main concern has been the employees and others who make LANL great, including everyone in the greater LANL community who supports the important work of the Lab and who makes sure LANL contributes positively to New Mexico.

It is essential that NNSA now move forward expeditiously and find the best contractor. It appears that the RFP is skewed more toward a corporate rather than a not-for-profit university management structure. Regardless of which group wins this contract, they must put science before profit. While I have no authority over who will win the competition, I will do everything I can to ensure the protection of employee and retiree benefits, and continue LANL's tradition of excellent science in a secure environment.

Please [click here](#) for more information on the RFP.

Very Truly Yours,

Tom Udall